



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/732,991	12/11/2003	John M. Sebastian	58624US002	1398

32692 7590 09/05/2006

3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY
PO BOX 33427
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427

EXAMINER

MATZEK, MATTHEW D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/732,991	Applicant(s) SEBASTIAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew D. Matzek	Art Unit 1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment dated 6/26/06 has been fully considered and entered into the Record.

Claims 1-26 are currently active claims 27 and 28 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DiZio et al. (US 6,455,152) in view of Renz et al. (US 6,187,845) for the reasons stated in the previous office action.

a. DiZio et al. teach an adhesive-coated article (Abstract) comprising woven, nonwoven, films, open weaves, and loose nonwoven webs (col. 7, lines 34-42). The substrate surface preferably has a web surface and may be made of polypropylene (col. 10, lines 4-19). The adhesive may be a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) such as silicones (col. 1, lines 60-64). The adhesive may contain one more PSA resins, cross-linking agents, and UV stabilizers (col. 7, lines 53-67). The PSA is applied to a major surface of the substrate and has a release liner (col. 3, lines 20-47). However DiZio et al. is silent as to the use of an ultraviolet absorber and the specific composition of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

- b. Renz et al. teach pressure sensitive adhesive compositions that are rendered stable against ultraviolet (UV) degradation via the incorporation of benzotriazole UV absorbers (Abstract and col. 4, lines 24-35). The adhesive compositions may be used to protect interior structures, textiles, and fabrics (col. 3, lines 40-43). Claim 11 recites that the adhesive composition may contain between 0.1 to 20 weight percent of benzotriazole. The adhesive composition may additionally contain up to another 20% of another UV absorber, hindered amines, or conventional stabilizers (col. 13, lines 19-45). Additional adhesives may be added to the pressure sensitive adhesive composition (col. 20, line 57 – col. 22, line 26).
- d. Since DiZio et al., and Renz et al. are all from the same field of endeavor, (i.e. pressure sensitive adhesive coated nonwoven articles), the purposes disclosed by Renz et al. would have been recognized in the pertinent art of DiZio et al.
- e. It would have been obvious at the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have made the article of DiZio et al. with the composition of Renz et al., motivated by the desire to create an article that provides excellent stabilization (col. 2, lines 34-41; Renz et al.).
3. Claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DiZio et al. (US 6,455,152) in view of Renz et al. (US 6,187,845) as applied above to claims 3 and 16 and further in view of Romanowski (US 2004/0071916).
- a. DiZio et al. teach an adhesive-coated article (Abstract) comprising woven, nonwoven, films, open weaves, and loose nonwoven webs (col. 7, lines 34-42). The

Art Unit: 1771

substrate surface preferably has a web surface and may be made of polypropylene (col. 10, lines 4-19). The adhesive may be a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) such as silicones (col. 1, lines 60-64). The adhesive may contain one more PSA resins, cross-linking agents, and UV stabilizers (col. 7, lines 53-67). The PSA is applied to a major surface of the substrate and has a release liner (col. 3, lines 20-47). However DiZio et al. is silent as to the type of nonwoven material to be used as backing in the adhesive tape, the use of an ultraviolet absorber and the specific composition of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

b. Romanowski teaches a nonwoven pressure sensitive adhesive tape comprising a nonwoven fabric layer (Abstract and [0062]). Nonwoven fabrics include spunbonded, needle punched (needletacked), and spunlaced fabrics [0062].

c. Since DiZio et al. and Romanowski are all from the same field of endeavor, (i.e. pressure sensitive adhesive coated nonwoven articles), the purposes disclosed by Romanowski would have been recognized in the pertinent art of DiZio et al.

d. It would have been obvious at the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have made the article of DiZio et al. with the fabric of Romanowski, motivated by the desire to create a favorably flexible tape (Abstract; Romanowski).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 6/26/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. Applicant argues that it has been shown that within the PSA arts that both acrylic pressure sensitive adhesives and silicone pressure sensitive adhesives generally have good

Art Unit: 1771

resistance to degradation by sunlight. Therefore, it would be known to one of ordinary skill in the art that acrylic and silicone PSAs do not generally require protection from exposure to sunlight using ultraviolet light stabilizers and as such there is no motivation to combine the DiZio et al. and Renz et al. references. The Renz et al. reference specifically teaches the use of benzotriazole UV absorbers (Abstract and col. 4, lines 24-35) in adhesive compositions used to protect interior structures, textiles, and fabrics (col. 3, lines 40-43). The adhesive composition may additionally contain up to another 20% of another UV absorber including hindered amines and the adhesive is selected from PSAs such as acrylics (col. 4, lines 32-45). Therefore the teaching of combining PSAs and ultraviolet stabilizers is set forth in Renz et al. with the motivation to further protect interior structures, textiles, and fabrics (col. 3, lines 40-43).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1771

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Matzek whose telephone number is (571) 272-2423. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mdm

Mdm



Norca L. Torres-Velazquez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1771

8/30/06